



## MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

McLean County Health Department  
200 West Front St., Bloomington, IL  
Friday, July 8, 2022  
**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM.

1. Roll Call: Chair Cory Tello, Vanessa Granger-Belcher, Faye Freeman-Smith, Mary Campbell, Dan Deneen  
Absent: Trisha Malott, Chief Cory Matheny

McLean County Health Department Staff: Amy Hancock, Behavioral Health Program Manager; Shannon Garlock, Office Support Specialist II, Natasha Caudle, Behavioral Health Specialist

2. Appearance by Members of the Public: None

3. Items for Action

- A. Approve 4/01/2022 MHAB Meeting Minutes

**Motion Made By:** Dan Deneen

**Seconded Motion:** Faye Freeman-Smith

4. Items for Information

- A. Review of CY22 MHAB Goals

- B. Summary of MHAB's April 1, 2022, Meeting presented to the Board of Health

- C. McLean County Health Department's New Strategic Plan

- D. Infographic of the 10 Essential Public Health Services

- E. McLean County Community Health Improvement Plan 2021 Progress Report

- F. Social Determinants of Health Impact on Behavioral Health

- The board members held a discussion:

- Vanessa shared FUSE is experiencing issues with locating housing due to the requirements and shortage in affordable housing. The FUSE Program has clients with employment and an income and could manage the month-to-month finances, but do not qualify as the current qualifications require an income 3 times the monthly rent.
- Board members agreed affordable sustainable housing is a huge need in the county for low/mid incomes. There are too many rigid rules creating barriers for the community to obtain affordable housing.
- The lack of sustainable affordable housing is a severe concern for the community as homelessness impacts an individuals' mental, physical, and overall well-being. This concern is becoming a public health issue.
- Discussion regarding current challenges creating a chain affect is a growing concern.

Individuals in the community are facing cost of supplies, trucking issues and shipping prices, transportation, housing concerns or homelessness, Covid-19 health concerns, and qualifying for assistance restrictions is creating a cascade effect of issues. Crisis is everywhere and there are many issues out of control to keep up with.

Organizations and businesses are having to simultaneously handle their own challenges while trying to address public concerns.

- Board members discussed if finding listings of condemned buildings and becoming aware of these properties. Looking out of the box may be needed to correct the low-income housing problems. The Community Planner should have this information.
- Board members are concerned of the lack of opportunity for low/mid income families not able to have Pride of Ownership abilities due to the systematic problems and the prospect of greater future need for services if the current issues are not addressed. Especially with the individuals relocating into the community for employment opportunities, and if opportunities fail, more individuals will need services and we already have a lack of service personnel. There will not be enough staff in the community to support these increasing needs.

## 5. Items for Discussion

### A. Youth Mental health and Problem-Solving Courts Programs in McLean County

- Youth Mental Health Collaboration grant opportunity was discussed. The grant would assist with collaborative efforts to close gaps of services, accessing services, and the goal of making youth and family services readily available. Grant announcement is due in August 2022.
- Faye Freeman-Smith would like a focus of youth gambling and suicide added as an addiction priority, as suicide is much higher for the youth population after gambling and gaming losses. Internet gambling is everywhere and easily accessible for the youth. Commercials and gaming advertisements are increasingly targeted and enticing towards the youth population. The concern is creating a spiral effect of mental health issues for the youth population.
- The board members shared excitement of new or community collaborating efforts:
  - The New YMCA facility is scheduled to open soon
  - Parkland Foundation and Nature Healing
  - Promise Council-able to send email blitz and immediately problem solve
  - 100 Women for Good
- The board members held a discussion regarding Problem Solving Courts
  - Chestnut is currently extremely understaffed. Efforts have been made to reach out for staffing assistance with no positive results.
  - Other counties are experiencing the same concerns.
  - The problem is assessments are not being completed.
    - The members discussed if there are other ways for intervention in the judicial system and if an embedded assessment staff member should be staffed to prevent this concern in the future.
    - The board members discussed if ISU/Heartland Community College master level student programs for paid internships would be able to assist.
    - Paid student internships would reduce Chestnut to only needing supervisory staff personnel.

### B. Update on County Trauma-Informed Care Initiative from Taylore Davis, McLean County Behavioral Health Coordination

- Taylore discussed the history and shift changes of the initiative and the progress of the subcommittees focusing on the McLean County Action Plan. Taylore explained the main focus areas for Resilience Inspires and Spreads to Everyone (RISE) is building the foundation for the initiative and developing

high level goals and creating stable Mission, Vision, and Values. Future goals of creating a logo to help with branding and creating a webpage for RISE to be a centralize linking hub for Trauma Informed Care for the county.

- In September, trainings will be created and shared with the community. Trauma vs Resilience data will be developed to assist in creating a change in the culture of the community.
- Dan stated next year there will be a new State's Attorney. Dan shared there is a great need for a position to screen for substance abuse and history of trauma for individuals entering the jail system, as the jail culture only creates a bigger impact for these individuals.
- Vanessa stated the Law and Justice building is interested in trauma and resiliency information and trainings to embed Trauma Informed Care into the jail system.
- The focus on RISE in the next few years is DEI, trainings, and sharing information to the community.

6. Other Business

7. Adjournment

**Motion made to adjourn meeting:** Dan Deneen

**Seconded motion:** Mary Campbell

**Meeting adjourned at:** 11:11 AM